

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended): In the context of a printing system comprising one or more image data creation apparatuses creating image data and one or more printers carrying out printing based on at least a portion of the image data acquired from at least one of the image data creation apparatus or apparatuses, a printing system ~~characterized in that it comprises~~

comprising:

one or more storage ~~devices means for storing which store~~ at least a portion of the image data;

one or more region ~~specification input sources specification means for specifying which specify, based on user input,~~ one or more arbitrary regions within at least a portion of the image data at which cropped printing should take place;

one or more image ~~sources acquisition means for acquiring which acquire~~ at least a portion of the image data stored at ~~at least one of the storage devices means;~~

one or more ~~cutting means for cutting cutters which cut~~ one or more subsets from at least a portion of the acquired image data using one or more cutting frames established based on at least a portion of at least one of the region or regions specified by at least one of the region ~~specification input sources means;~~

one or more image ~~processors which processing means for,~~ based on one or more aspect ratios of one or more sheets of printing paper and one or more aspect ratios of one or more images in at least one of the specified region or regions, ~~carrying carry out~~ prescribed processing

on at least a portion of at least one of the image or images in at least one of the specified region or regions so as to cause no margin to be formed at least either horizontally or vertically on at least one of the sheet or sheets of printing paper; and

one or more ~~printers which print~~ printing means for printing at least a portion of at least one of the processed image or images.

2. (currently amended): A ~~printing method characterized in that it comprises~~
comprising:

one or more steps in which at least a portion of the image data is stored;

one or more steps in which one or more arbitrary regions within at least a portion of the stored image data at which cropped printing should take place ~~is or~~ are specified;

one or more steps in which at least a portion of the stored image data is acquired;

one or more steps in which one or more subsets ~~is or~~ are cut from at least a portion of the acquired image data using one or more cutting frames established based on at least a portion of at least one of the specified region or regions;

one or more steps in which, based on one or more aspect ratios of one or more sheets of printing paper and one or more aspect ratios of one or more images in at least one of the specified region or regions, prescribed processing is carried out on at least a portion of at least one of the image or images in at least one of the specified region or regions so as to cause no margin to be formed at least either horizontally or vertically on at least one of the sheet or sheets of printing paper; and

one or more steps in which at least a portion of at least one of the processed image or images is printed.

3. (currently amended): ~~A-The~~ printing method according to claim 2 wherein:
at least one of the step or steps in which one or more subsets ~~is or~~ are cut from at least a portion of the image data is such that portion or portions extending beyond one or more edges of at least one of the sheet or sheets of printing paper ~~is or~~ are also taken into consideration in establishing one or more cutting frames larger than at least one of the specified locus or loci, at least a portion of the image data being cut therewith so as to cause no margin to be formed at least horizontally or vertically on at least one of the sheet or sheets of printing paper.

4. (currently amended): ~~A-The~~ printing method according to claim 3 wherein:
at least one of the step or steps in which prescribed processing is carried out on at least a portion of at least one of the image or images is such that at least a portion of at least one of the image or images in at least one of the specified region or regions is enlarged and/or reduced and/or rotated based on one or more aspect ratios of one or more sheets of printing paper and one or more aspect ratios of one or more images in at least one of the specified region or regions and one or more print layouts.

5. (currently amended): ~~A-The~~ printing method according to claim 4 wherein:
at least one of the step or steps in which prescribed processing is carried out on at least a portion of at least one of the image or images is such that, in the event that at least a portion of at least one of the image or images in at least one of the specified region or regions is rotated, at least a portion of at least one of the image or images in at least one of the specified region or regions is rotated so as to cause one or more orientations of one or more edges in one or more

long directions of at least one of the image or images in at least one of the specified region or regions to match one or more orientations of one or more edges in one or more long directions of one or more print regions established at ~~at~~ least one of the sheet or sheets of printing paper.

6. (currently amended): ~~A-~~The printing method according to claim 5 wherein:
at least one of the step or steps in which prescribed processing is carried out on at least a portion of at least one of the image or images is such that, in the event that at least a portion of at least one of the image or images in at least one of the specified region or regions is enlarged and/or reduced, enlargement and/or reduction is carried out such that at least one of the aspect ratio or ratios of at least one of the image or images in at least one of the specified region or regions is preserved.

7. (currently amended): ~~A-~~The printing method according to claim 5 wherein:
at least one of the step or steps in which prescribed processing is carried out on at least a portion of at least one of the image or images is such that, in the event that it is determined that it is possible to achieve borderless printing with no margin on any of the four edges and with distortion within one or more preestablished allowed ranges, at least a portion of at least one of the image or images in at least one of the specified region or regions is enlarged and/or reduced so as to be within at least one of the allowed range or ranges.

8. (currently amended): ~~A-~~The printing method according to claim 6 further comprising:

one or more ~~report means reporting units for reporting which report~~ to one or more users that one or more margins may be produced horizontally and/or vertically on at least one of the sheet or sheets of printing paper.

9. (currently amended): An image data creation apparatus creating image data for printing at one or more printers, the image data creation apparatus ~~being characterized in that it comprises comprising:~~

one or more storage ~~means devices for storing which store~~ at least a portion of the image data;

one or more region specification ~~means input sources for specifying which specify~~ one or more arbitrary regions within at least a portion of the stored image data at which cropped printing should take place; and

one or more print request ~~means units which for~~, based on one or more aspect ratios of one or more sheets of printing paper and one or more aspect ratios of at least one of the specified region or regions, ~~requesting request~~ that at least one of the printer or printers carry out printing so as to cause no margin to be formed at least either horizontally or vertically on at least one of the sheet or sheets of printing paper.

10. (currently amended): A printer ~~characterized in that it comprises comprising:~~
one or more ~~image acquisition units means for acquiring which acquire~~ image data;
one or more ~~cutting cutters means for cutting which cut~~ one or more subsets from at least a portion of the acquired image data using one or more cutting frames established based on one or more regions at which cropped printing should take place;

one or more image ~~processors which processing means for~~, based on one or more aspect ratios of one or more sheets of printing paper and one or more aspect ratios of one or more images in at least one of the region or regions at which cropped printing should take place, ~~carrying carry out~~ prescribed processing on at least a portion of at least one of the image or images in at least one of the specified region or regions so as to cause no margin to be formed at least either horizontally or vertically on at least one of the sheet or sheets of printing paper; and one or more printing ~~means units~~ for printing at least a portion of at least one of the processed image or images.

11. (currently amended): ~~A-The printer according to claim 10 further comprising:~~
one or more ~~report means for reporting reporting units which report to~~ one or more users that one or more margins may be produced horizontally and/or vertically on at least one of the sheet or sheets of printing paper.

12. (currently amended): ~~A-The printer according to claim 11 further comprising:~~
one or more region specification ~~input sources which specify means for specifying one or~~ more arbitrary regions within at least a portion of the image data at which cropped printing should take place.

13. (currently amended): A printing method for carrying out borderless printing of one or more subsets of image data on roll paper, the printing method ~~being characterized in that it comprises comprising:~~

one or more steps in which at least a portion of the image data is stored;

one or more steps in which one or more arbitrary regions within at least a portion of the stored image data at which cropped printing should take place ~~is or~~ are specified;

one or more steps in which at least a portion of the stored image data is acquired;

one or more steps in which one or more subsets ~~is or~~ are cut from at least a portion of the acquired image data using one or more cutting frames established based on at least a portion of at least one of the specified region or regions;

one or more steps in which, based on one or more width dimensions of the roll paper and one or more aspect ratios of one or more images in at least one of the specified region or regions, prescribed processing is carried out on at least a portion of at least one of the image or images in at least one of the specified region or regions so as to cause one edge of at least one of the image or images in at least one of the specified region or regions to more or less match at least one of the width dimension or dimensions of the roll paper; and

one or more steps in which at least a portion of at least one of the processed image or images is printed.

14. (new): In the context of a printing system comprising one or more image data creation apparatuses creating image data and one or more printers carrying out printing based on at least a portion of the image data acquired from at least one of the image data creation apparatus or apparatuses, a printing system comprising:

an image data creation apparatus comprising

one or more storage devices which store at least a portion of the image data,

one or more region specification input sources which specify, based on user input, one or more arbitrary regions within at least a portion of the image data at which cropped printing should take place,

one or more image sources which acquire at least a portion of the image data stored at least one of the storage devices; and

a printer, comprising

one or more image acquisition units which acquire image data,

one or more cutters which cut one or more subsets from at least a portion of the acquired image data using one or more cutting frames established based on one or more regions at which cropped printing should take place,

one or more image processors which, based on one or more aspect ratios of one or more sheets of printing paper and one or more aspect ratios of one or more images in at least one of the region or regions at which cropped printing should take place, carry out prescribed processing on at least a portion of at least one of the image or images in at least one of the specified region or regions so as to cause no margin to be formed at least either horizontally or vertically on at least one of the sheet or sheets of printing paper, and

one or more printing units for printing at least a portion of at least one of the processed image or images.